

BEFORE
THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF
SOUTH CAROLINA
DOCKET NO. 2017-277-E - ORDER NO. 2018-33
JANUARY 10, 2018

IN RE: South Carolina Electric & Gas Company –) ORDER DETERMINING
Request for “Like Facility” Determinations) “LIKE FACILITY”
Pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. § 58-33-110(1)) STATUS

This matter comes before the Public Service Commission of South Carolina (“Commission”) on the request of South Carolina Electric & Gas Company (“SCE&G” or “the Company”) for a determination that the replacement of certain portions of a line constitutes the replacement of existing facilities with like facilities, and therefore would not constitute construction of major facilities for which a certificate would be required under the Utility Facility Siting and Environmental Protection Act (“the Siting Act”), S.C. Code Ann. Sections 58-33-10 to 170. The Company intends to “fold in” the Wateree-CIP 230 kilovolt (kV) line into the Hopkins 230/115 kV substation. The changes in infrastructure associated with that fold in are what SCE&G intends to be “like facilities” under the Siting Act.

According to the Company’s Application and subsequently filed additional information, SCE&G plans to segment the Wateree-CIP 230 kV Line and install steel structures within the existing right-of-way at the point of segmentation. SCE&G will also install two sets of steel monopole structures to connect the segmented Wateree-CIP 230 kV Line to the Hopkins substation. The two sets of poles will be constructed in a new

right-of-way acquisition of approximately 1,100 feet in length. There are two affected property owners, and SCE&G asserts that all proper rights have been acquired from the two property owners.

SCE&G asserts that the replacement facilities will help SCE&G maintain an acceptable level of support to existing electrical distribution substations in the Southeast Columbia area. The Company notes that these lines will allow the Company to remain in compliance with North American Electric Reliability Corporation (“NERC”) Transmission Planning Standards. The Company further asserts that these projects will not result in any significant increase in the environmental impact of the facilities or substantially change their location. The Office of Regulatory Staff (“ORS”) does not object to the Company’s requested determination.

The Commission issued Order No. 2017-670 seeking additional information to clarify what facilities would be replaced in the requested “like facility” determination, and whether the Company considered alternatives to complying with reliability standards. The Company filed a response, indicating that 55-60 feet of the original line would be removed and replaced by the new tie-in infrastructure connecting the newly segmented Wateree-CIP 230 kV line to the Hopkins Substation.

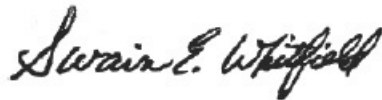
Additionally, the Company explained that it considered three alternatives to maintain system reliability, including the change currently requested by this “like facilities” determination. The first option was to install an additional autobank at CIP Substation and rebuild the CIP-Hopkins 115 kV Line on single-pole double-circuit structures with 230 kV on one side and 115 kV on the other. The second option was the

requested solution: to install an additional autobank at the Hopkins Substation and fold the Wateree-CIP 230 kV Line into Hopkins Substation. The third option was to rebuild the CIP – Lake Murray 115 kV Line and the CIP-Edenwood 115 kV Line with new conductors. The requested fold in – the second option - was both the most robust from a reliability perspective and cost-effective from an economic perspective.

We have examined the record of this case, and we agree with the Company and ORS. The proposed replacement facilities are similar in function and purpose to the presently existing facilities. Accordingly, we have determined that the replacement of the segmented portion of the Wateree-SIP 230 kV Line with the fold-in infrastructure constitutes “the replacement of an existing facility with a like facility” and would not constitute “construction of a major utility facility” for which a certificate would be required under the Siting Act.

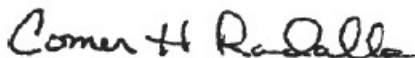
This Order shall remain in full force and effect until further order of the Commission.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:



Swain E. Whitfield, Chairman

ATTEST:



Comer H. Randall, Vice Chairman